TEN CENTS

OWNER'S MANUAL

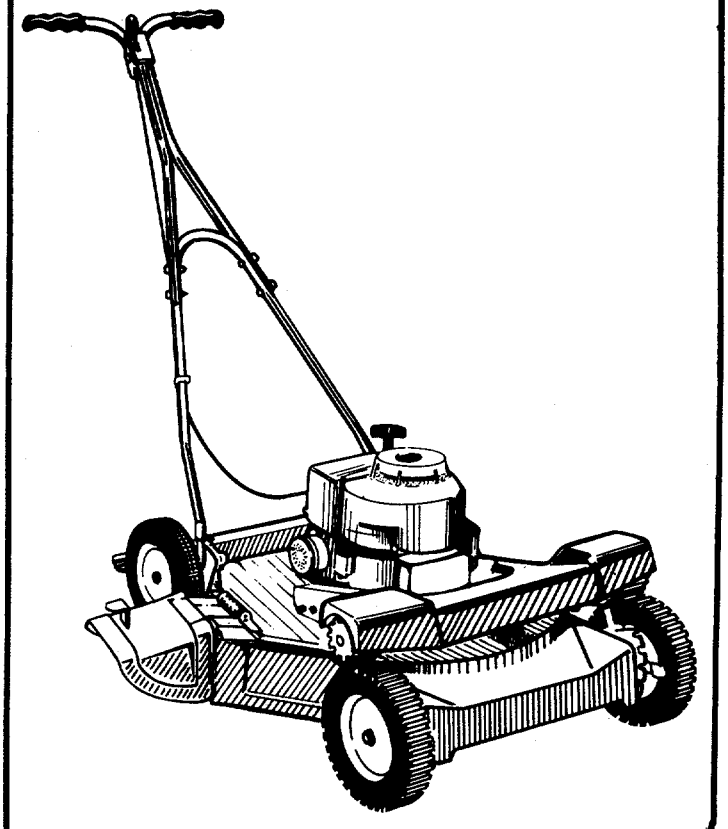
- ASSEMBLY
- OPERATION
- MAINTENANCE
- PARTS LIST

Model No.
127-230A

Important:

Read Safety Rules and Instructions Carefully

22" SELF-PROPELLED ROTARY MOWER



PRINTED IN U.S.A.

FORM NO. 770-7229

IMPORTANT

It is suggested that this manual be read in its entirety before attempting to assemble or operate. Keep this manual in a safe place for future reference and for ordering replacement parts.

This unit is shipped WITHOUT GASOLINE or OIL. After assembly, see operating section of this manual for proper fuel and amount.

SAFE OPERATION PRACTICES FOR WALK-BEHIND MOWERS

TRAINING

1. Read the Operating and Service Instruction Manual carefully. Be thoroughly familiar with the controls and the proper use of the equipment.
2. Never allow children to operate a power mower.
3. Keep the area of operation clear of all persons, particularly small children and pets.

PREPARATION

1. Thoroughly inspect the area where the equipment is to be used and remove all stones, sticks, wire, bones and other foreign objects.
2. Do not operate equipment when barefoot or wearing open sandals. Always wear substantial footwear.
3. Check the fuel before starting the engine. Do not fill the gasoline tank indoors, when the engine is running, or while the engine is still hot. Wipe off any spilled gasoline before starting the engine.
4. Disengage the self-propelled mechanism or drive clutch on units so equipped before starting the engine.
5. Never attempt to make a wheel adjustment while the engine is running.
6. Mow only in daylight or in good artificial light.
7. Never operate the equipment in wet grass. Always be sure of your footing; keep a firm hold on the handle and walk, never run.

OPERATION

1. Do not change the engine governor settings or overspeed the engine.
2. Do not put hands or feet near or under rotating parts. Keep clear of the discharge opening at all times.
3. Stop the blade(s) when crossing gravel drive, walks or roads.
4. After striking a foreign object, stop the engine, remove the wire from the spark plug, thoroughly inspect the mower for any damage, and repair the damage before restarting and operating the mower.
5. If the equipment should start to vibrate abnormally, stop the engine and check immediately for the cause. Vibration is generally a warning of trouble.
6. Stop the engine whenever you leave the equipment, before cleaning the mower housing, and when making any repairs or inspections.
7. When cleaning, repairing or inspecting, make certain the blade and all moving parts have stopped. Disconnect the spark plug wire, and keep the wire away from the plug to prevent accidental starting.
8. Do not run the engine indoors.
9. Shut the engine off and wait until the blade comes to a complete stop before removing the grass catcher or unclogging chute.
10. Mow across the face of slopes, never up-and-down. Exercise extreme caution when changing direction on slopes. Do not mow excessively steep slopes.
11. Always disconnect electric mowers (line operated) before cleaning, repairing or adjusting.
12. Never operate mower without proper guards, plates or other safety protective devices in place.
13. Keep washout ports and other mower-housing service openings closed when mowing.
14. **DO NOT OPERATE** this mower with the chute doors open, unless the complete grass catcher is properly mounted on the mower.

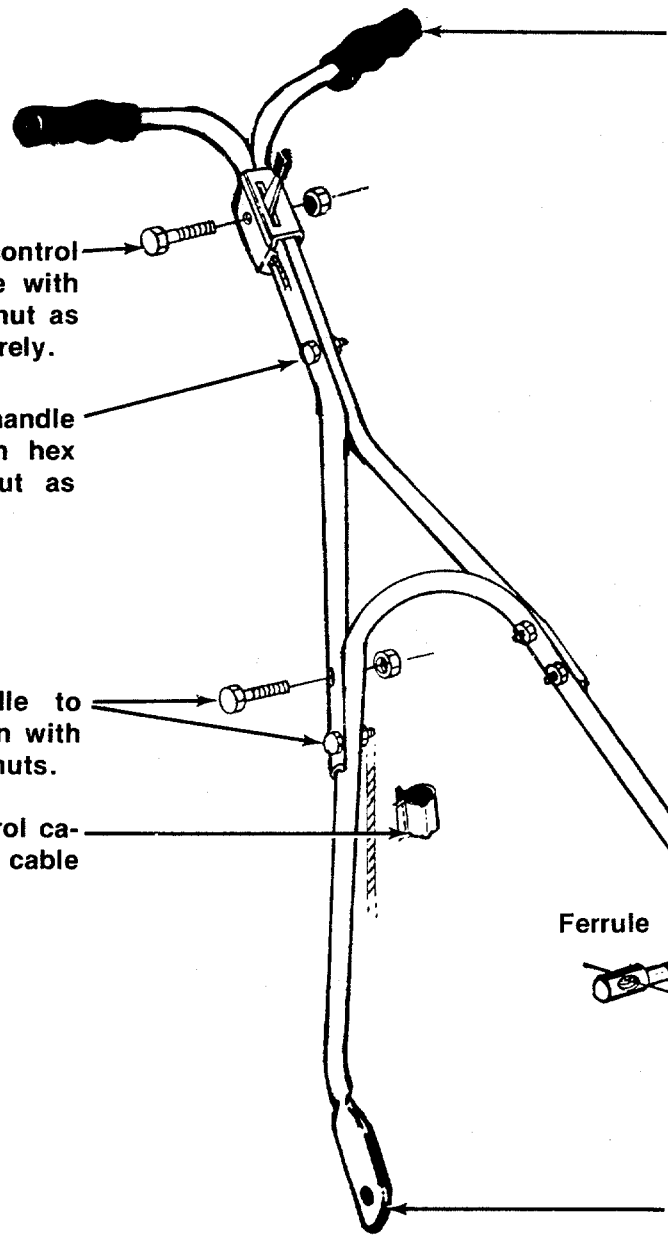
MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE

1. Check the blade and engine mounting bolts at frequent intervals for proper tightness.
2. Keep all nuts, bolts, and screws tight to be sure the equipment is in safe working condition.
3. Never store the equipment with gasoline in the tank inside of a building where fumes may reach an open flame or spark. Allow the engine to cool before storing in any enclosure.
4. To reduce fire hazard, keep the engine free of grass, leaves, or excessive grease.
5. Check the grass catcher bag frequently for wear or deterioration. Replace with new bag for safety protection.

HANDLE ASSEMBLY

NOTE

It may be necessary to bend the ends of the lower handle inward slightly to assure a snug fit against the deck mounting area.



4. **Fasten the throttle control to the upper handle with hex screw and locknut as shown. Tighten securely.**

3. **Secure two upper handle halves together with hex hd. bolt and locknut as shown.**

2. **Attach upper handle to lower handle; fasten with cap screws and locknuts.**

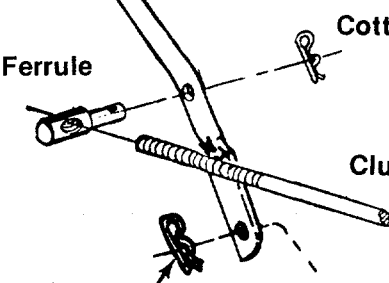
5. **Secure throttle control cable to handle with cable clips.**

6. **Slip hand grips on the upper end of each handle. They will slip on more easily if you first soak them in warm soapy water.**

7. **With the handle all the way forward, thread the clutch rod into the ferrule until the ferrule lines up with the hole in lower handle. Secure ferrule in position with cotter pin.**

8. **Secure the throttle wire to the lower handle with cable clip provided. Refer to illustration.**

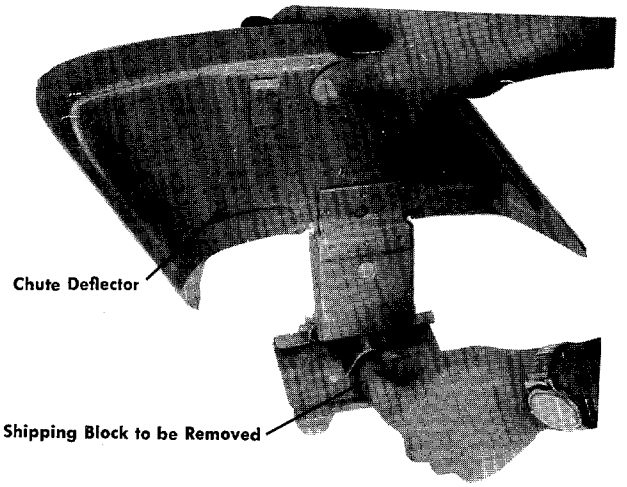
9. **Check ALL nuts and bolts for correct tightness.**



1. **Fasten lower handle in position in handle mount brackets on deck. Secure with cotter pins as shown.**

CAUTION

Please note that the chute deflector on your mower is in an upright position. It is held in that position by a shipping block. This block is used for shipping purposes only. It must be removed and discarded before your mower is put into operation.



This mower should be broken in following the procedure described in the break-in instructions. The added effort here will double the service life of the unit. Particular attention should be paid to the notes on alignment.

When operating this mower, unnecessary or excessive engaging of the drive pinions with the wheels should be avoided. This is achieved by minimizing the raising and lowering of the handle during the mowing operation. Failure to observe this operating rule can reduce the service life of the front tires and drive pinions substantially. When engaging the self-propelled mechanism, a slight forward push on the mower as the drive pinions and the gear tread tires mesh will add to smoother and quieter operation. In addition to a smoother operation, it will add substantially to the service life of both the tires and the drive pinions.

HANDLE ASSEMBLY PRECAUTIONS

Although the handle is of simple design, difficulty has been encountered in its assembly. Certain precautions concerning its assembly must be heeded. The handle must be assembled as shown in the diagram on page 3. Trouble arises when certain parts are put together improperly.

OPERATION

1. Service engine with gas and oil. See Engine Maintenance for complete instructions for care and maintenance of engine. READ DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY.
2. Lubricate bronze bearings on drive shaft.
3. Check drive assembly for correct alignment (See Break-in Instructions).
4. When ready to start engine, be sure handle is all the way back into free wheeling position. Start engine. After engine starts, move throttle control lever on handle to the desired engine speed.
5. When the handle is moved forward for self-propelled operation, the drive pinions engage with the gear tread tires and forward drive results.
6. Temporary free wheeling is achieved by depressing the handle and raising front wheels slightly off the ground. Self-propelled drive is resumed when handle is raised. Engine is stopped by placing control lever on handle into STOP position.

BREAK-IN INSTRUCTIONS

1. Before starting the engine, lubricate all the bronze bearings on the drive shaft. The same oil which is used for the engine may be used for this.
2. Check drive assembly alignment. When the handle is lifted the clutch rod is moved to the self-propelled position. The black nylon drive pinions should mesh simultaneously with the gear tread tires.

LUBRICATION

IMPORTANT

Always stop engine and disconnect spark plug wire before cleaning, lubricating or doing any kind of work on lawn mower.

Wheel Bearings—Drive wheels are equipped with sintered bearings. Lubricate at least once a season with light oil. Rear wheel bearings are of self-lubricating Fortiflex. They require no lubrication.

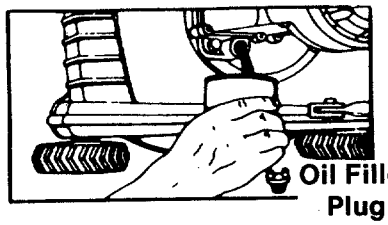
Throttle—Periodically lubricate throttle control lever and throttle wire assembly with a few drops of light oil SAE No. 10 or 20 for ease of operations.

Bronze Bearings—Periodically lubricate all bronze bearings with a few drops of light oil SAE No. 10 or 20 to minimize friction.

Protective Shield—The pivot points on the protective shield should be lubricated periodically with light oil to prevent any rust or binding.

Chute Deflector—The torsion spring and pivot point should be lubricated periodically with light oil to prevent any rust or binding. Deflector must work freely.

Engine—See Engine Maintenance for lubrication instructions.



NOTE: FILL AND DRAIN OIL FROM OIL FILL PLUG.

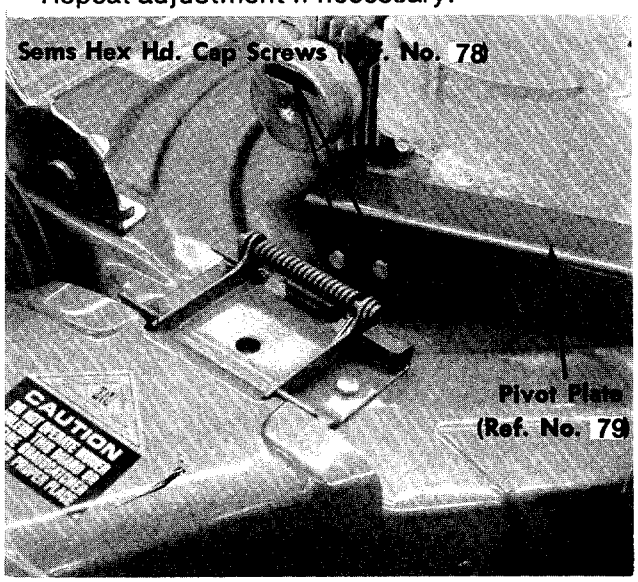
ADJUSTMENTS

CAUTION

Do not at any time make any adjustment to lawn mower without first stopping engine and disconnecting spark plug wire.

Chain Adjustment—

1. Loosen (do not remove) two hex head cap screws. (See illustration below.)
2. Pull pivot plate forward.
3. Tighten cap screws and check chain tension. Repeat adjustment if necessary.



Cutting Height—An adjusting plate and thumb lever at each wheel position provides cutting height adjustment. Each adjusting plate has five holes. Height of cut will be changed when the thumb lever is moved from one hole to another. Simply depress thumb lever towards wheel and move wheel and lever assembly to desired position. All wheels must be positioned in relative height of cut position.

Throttle—If adjustment becomes necessary, the throttle control wire can be reset as follows:

1. Loosen, but do not remove, screw securing throttle control wire assembly at engine.
2. Move throttle control lever on handle to FAST position.
3. Move lever, to which control wire is fastened at engine, to full open position and retighten screw to secure throttle control wire assembly.

CLUTCH ROD ADJUSTMENT

1. Remove the cotter pin. See figure A.
2. Pull the clutch rod and ferrule out of the lower handle. See figure B.
3. Thread the ferrule on or off the rod one turn and check for alignment.
4. Place ferrule back in position and secure with cotter pin. If the engagement is still not correct, repeat the above steps.
5. The drive pinion should be about 1/8" from the drive wheels. See figure C.
6. Figures D, E, F and G will give the approximate length of rod that should be showing for each cutting height.

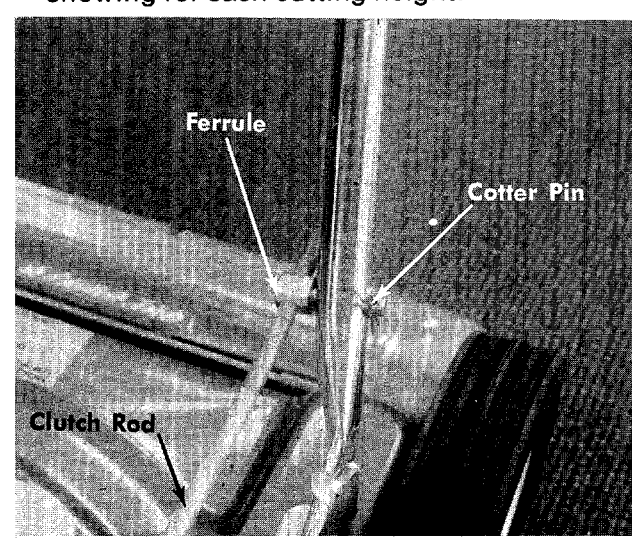


FIGURE A.

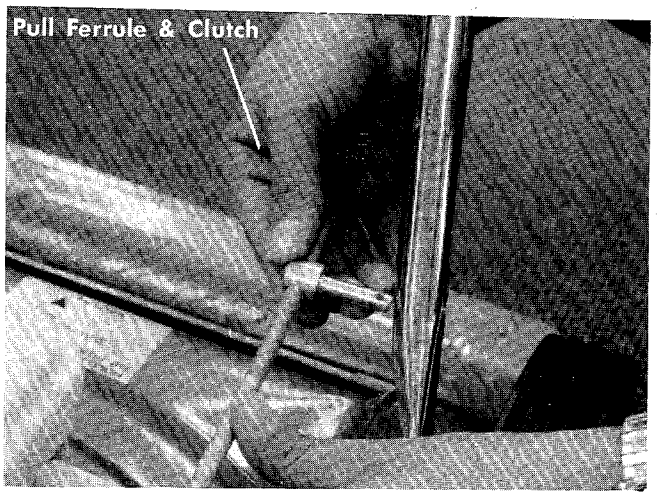


FIGURE B.

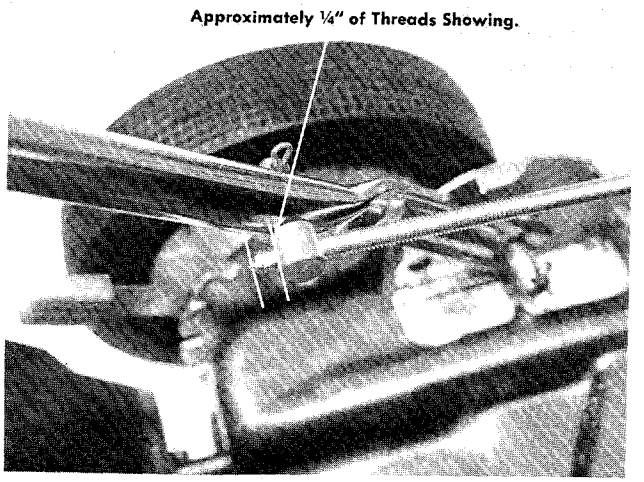


FIGURE E. CLUTCH ROD SETTING FOR THE MIDDLE CUTTING HEIGHT.

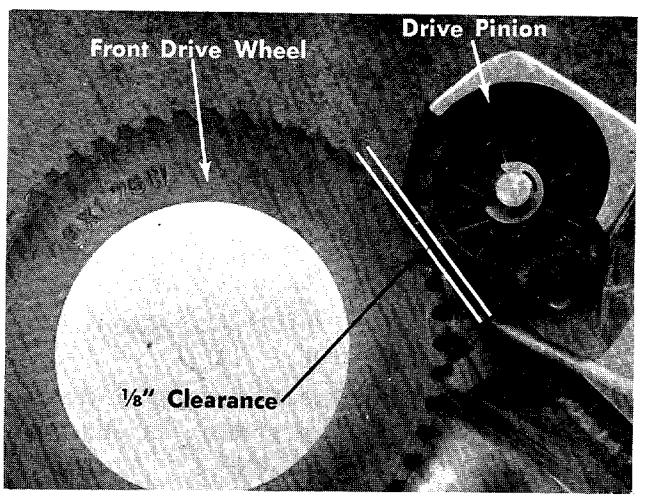


FIGURE C.

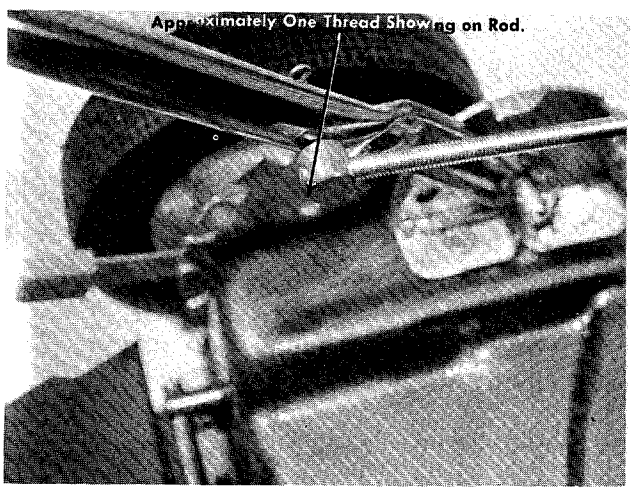


FIGURE F. CLUTCH ROD SETTING FOR THE SECOND LOWEST CUTTING HEIGHT.

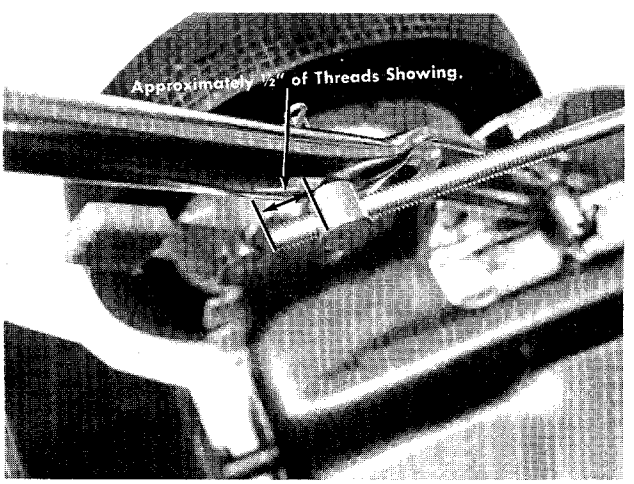


FIGURE D. CLUTCH ROD SETTING FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND HIGHEST CUTTING HEIGHT.

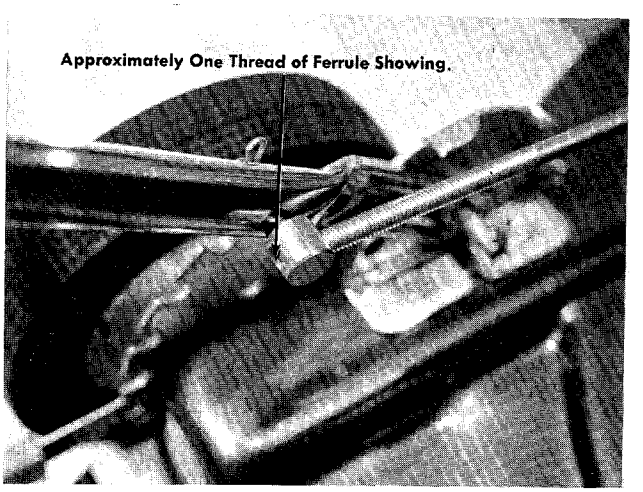


FIGURE G. CLUTCH ROD SETTING FOR THE LOWEST CUTTING HEIGHT.

MAINTENANCE

Cutting Blade—The blade may easily be removed for grinding or replacement as follows:

1. Remove bolt and lockwasher holding blade and blade adapter to engine crankshaft.
2. Remove blade and blade adapter from engine crankshaft.
3. Remove two bolts, lockwashers and nuts holding blade to blade adapter (if necessary).

When sharpening blade, follow the original angle of grind as a guide. It is extremely important that each cutting edge receives an equal amount of grinding to prevent an unbalanced blade. An unbalanced blade will cause excessive vibration when rotating at high speeds and may cause damage to the mower.

Upon reassembly, make certain all parts are assembled properly and tightened securely.

To insure safe operation of your unit, **all** nuts and bolts must be checked periodically for correct tightness.

Deck—The underside of mower deck should be cleaned after each period of use as grass clippings, leaves, dirt and other matter will accumulate. This accumulation of grass clippings, etc., is undesirable as it will invite corrosion and cause an uneven discharge of grass clippings at the next cutting.

The deck may be cleaned by tilting the mower forward or on its left side and scraping clean with a suitable tool or by washing with a stream of water from a garden hose.

CAUTION

Do not direct the stream of water at a hot engine as damage to the engine may result.

STORAGE

The following steps should be taken to prepare lawn mower for storage:

1. Clean and lubricate mower thoroughly as described in the preceding instructions.
2. Refer to engine manual for correct engine storage instructions.
3. Coat mower's cutting blade with chassis grease to prevent rusting.
4. Place blocks under deck to raise tires clear of floor.
5. Store mower in a dry, clean area.

USING YOUR ROTARY MOWER

For best results do not cut wet grass because it tends to stick to the underside of the mower thus preventing proper discharge of grass clippings. If wet grass must be cut, reduce engine speed and walking speed to help distribute the clippings more effectively.

New grass should be treated as wet grass, otherwise a normal walking speed is about the right pace for efficient mowing.

The best mowing pattern is one that allows the clippings to discharge towards the uncut part of the lawn. This permits recutting of the clippings to further pulverize them. When cutting high weeds, discharge towards cut portion then recut at right angles to first direction.

Lawn should be cut in the fall as long as there is growth.

HANDLE STORAGE

The handle may be put in a storage position; use the following steps:

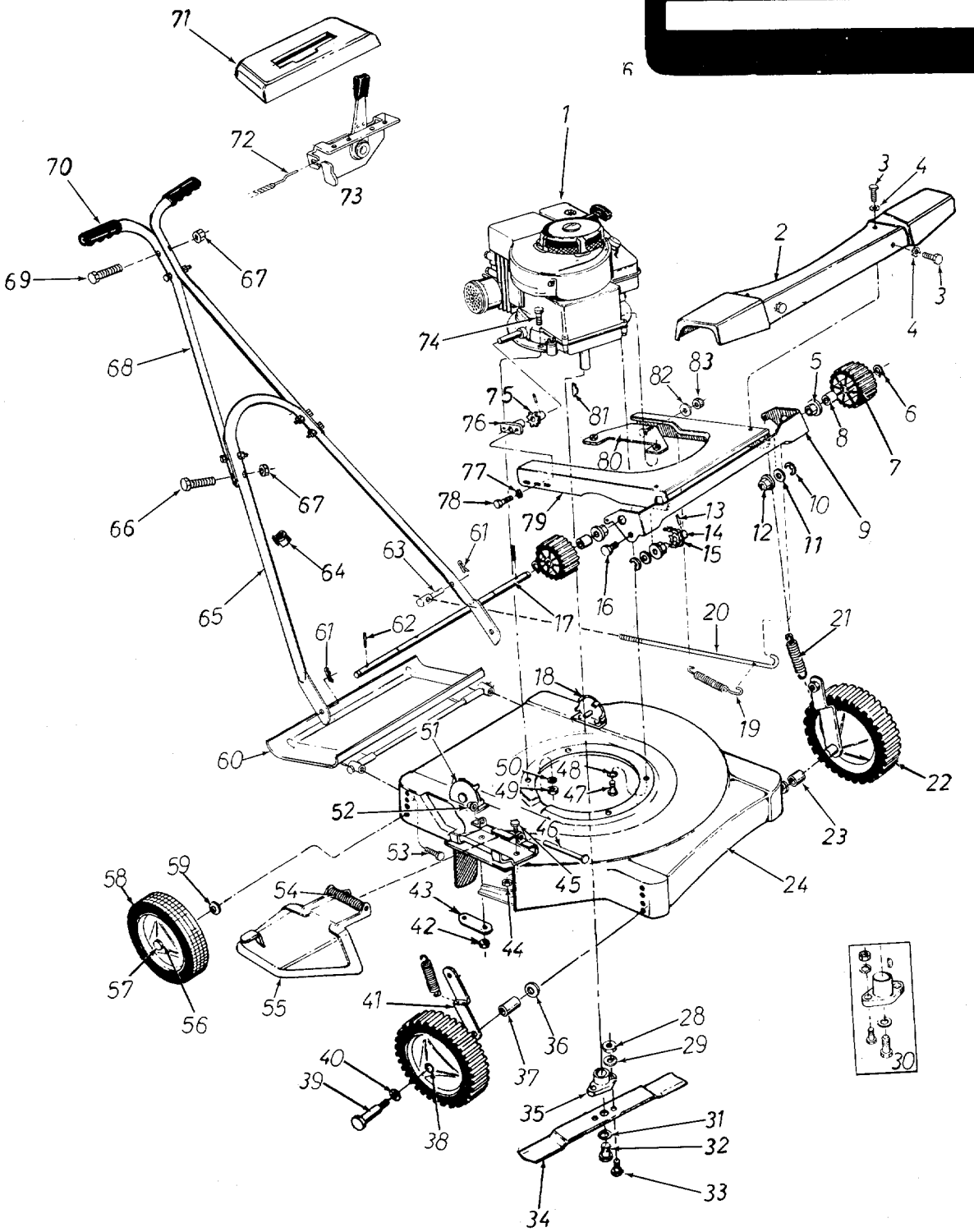
1. Remove hairpin cotter from ferrule on clutch rod.
2. Pull the ferrule out of the handle.
3. Replace the hairpin cotter.
4. Press inward on the lower handle and move it forward.
5. To put the handle back into the operating position, simply pull the handle back. It will lock automatically.

127-230A

Located on Rear of Deck

IF YOU WRITE TO US ABOUT THIS ARTICLE OR IF YOU ORDER REPLACEMENT PARTS ALWAYS MENTION THIS MODEL & SERIAL NO

MODEL



PARTS LIST FOR MODEL NO. 127-230

REF. NO.	PART NO.	COLOR CODE	DESCRIPTION	NEW PART
1	—		Engine	
2	10913	—480	Drive Cover	
3	710-0289		Hex Hd. Cap Scr. ¼-20 x .50" Lg.*	
4	736-0222		Ext. Lockwasher ¼" Scr.*	
5	748-0227		Hex Flange Bearing .630 I.D. Bronze	
6	716-0106		"E"-Ring for 5/8" Shaft	
7	10914		Drive Pinion	
8	02265		Sleeve .44" Dia. x 16 Ga.	
9	10372	—480	Drive Support	
10	716-0106		"E"-Ring for 5/8" Shaft	
11	736-0116		Flat Washer .635" I.D. x .93" O.D. x .060	
12	748-0227		Hex Flange Bearing .630" I.D. Bronze	
13	715-0247		Roll Pin 3/16" Dia. x 1.00" Lg.*	
14	10378		Sprocket Ass'y. 8 Tooth	
15	713-0135		Chain with Master Link #48 x 26" Lg.	
16	738-0147		Shld. Scr. .500" Dia. x .170	
17	711-0435		Drive Shaft	
18	11801		Handle Mtg. Brkt. Ass'y.—L.H.	
19	732-0433		Tension Spring	
20	12120		Clutch Rod 19.75" Lg.	
21	732-0209		Extension Spring	
22	9392-503		Front Wheel Ass'y.—Comp.	
23	711-0494		Spacer	
24	11440		Deck Ass'y.	
28	712-0123		Hex Nut 5/16-24 Thd.*	
29	736-0119		Spring Lockwasher 5/16" Scr.*	
30	10769		Blade Adapter Kit	
31	736-0217		Spring Lockwasher 3/8" Scr. H.D.	
32	710-0459		Hex Hd. Cap Scr. 3/8-24 x 1.50" Lg. H.T.	
33	710-0117		Hex Hd. Cap Scr. 5/16-24 x 1.00" Lg. H.T.	
34	742-0125		22 inch Blade	
35	10769		Blade Adapter Kit	
36	736-0105		Belleville Washer	
37	711-0494		Spacer	
38	748-0125		Sintered Bearing	
39	738-0144		Shld. Scr. .498" Dia. x 1.640 (Axle Bolt Front Only)	
40	736-0160		Flat Washer .385" I.D. x .87 O.D. x .06	
41	10918		Link Assembly	
42	712-0107		Hex Cent. L-Nut ¼-20 Thd.	
43	08405		Reinforcement Plate	
44	712-0107		Hex Center Locknut ¼-20 Thd.	
45	710-0289		Hex. Hd. Cap Scr. ¼-20 x .50" Lg.	
46	711-0555		Pivot Pin	
47	710-0442		Hex Hd. Cap Scr. 5/16-18 x 1.50" Lg.*	
48	736-0119		Spring Lockwasher 5/16" Scr.*	
49	712-0123		Hex Nut 5/16-24 Thd.*	
50	736-0119		Spring Lockwasher 5/16" Scr.*	
51	11802		Handle Mtg. Brkt. Ass'y.—R.H.	
52	726-0106		Push Cap	
53	710-0567		Hex Hd. Cap Scr. ¼-28 x .62" Lg.	
54	732-0253		Torsion Spring	
55	11680	—480	Chute Deflector Ass'y.—Comp.	
56	07006		Fortiflex Bearing (Rear Wheels Bearing)	
57	738-0133		Shld. Scr. .498" Dia. x .498" (Axle Bolt—Rear)	
58	09392-508		Wheel Ass'y.—Comp—Rear	
59	736-0105		Belleville Washer	
60	11197	—480	Protective Shield Ass'y.—Comp.	
61	714-0104		Hair Pin Cotter	
62	715-0246		Spring Pin Spirol 3/16 x 1.25" Lg.	
63	711-0570		Engagement Ferrule	
64	746-0128		Cable Clip for 7/8" Tubing	
65	749-0110		Lower Handle	
66	710-0106		Hex Scr. ¼-20 x 1.25" Lg.*	
67	712-0107		Hex Cent. L-Nut ¼-20 Thd.	
68	749-0111		Upper Handle	
69	710-0606		Hex Scr. ¼-20 x 1.50" Lg.*	
70	720-0157		Grip	
71	731-0344		Plastic Label	
72	746-0174		Conduit and Wire	
73	746-0178		Throttle Control Ass'y.—Comp.	
74	710-0158		Hex Hd. Cap Scr. 5/16-24 x 1.25" Lg.	
75	10377		Sprocket Ass'y.—8 Tooth	
76	748-0183		Bearing Support	
77	736-0222		External L-Wash. ¼" Scr.*	
78	710-0230		Hex Hd. Cap Scr. ¼-28 x .50" Lg.*	
79	11240	—480	Pivot Plate Ass'y.	
80	10381	—480	Engine Bracket Ass'y.	
81	714-0365		#6 Hi-Pro Key 5/32 x 5/8" Dia.	
82	736-0300		Flat Washer .385" I.D. x .87" O.D. x .06	
83	712-0116		Elastic Locknut 3/8-24 Thd.	

NOTE

The manufacturer DOES NOT recommend the use of any accessory on this rider mower other than those manufactured by MTD Products Inc.

GRASS CATCHER Model No. 197-003A is available as optional equipment for the mowers shown in this manual.

1. The mower should not be operated without the entire grass catcher or chute deflector in place.
2. The mower should not be operated without the protective shield on the rear of the deck in place.

NOTE

Under normal usage bag material is subject to wear and should be checked periodically. Be sure any replacement bag complies with the mower manufacturer's recommendations.

For replacement bags, use only factory authorized replacement bag No. 764-0119.

IMPORTANT

After striking a foreign object, stop the engine, remove wire from spark plug. Thoroughly inspect the mower for any damage, and repair the damage before restarting and operating the mower.

PARTS INFORMATION

POWER EQUIPMENT PARTS AND SERVICE

Parts and service for all MTD manufactured power equipment are available through the authorized service firms listed below. All orders should specify the model number of your unit, parts numbers, description of parts and the quantity of each part required.

ALABAMA — **BIRMINGHAM**
Auto Electric & Carburetor Co...2625 4th Ave. S. 35233

ARKANSAS — **NORTH LITTLE ROCK**
Sutton's Lawn Mower Shop ..... Rt. 4, Box 368 72117
FORT SMITH
Mity Mite Motors, Inc. ..... 2515 Towson Ave. 72901

CALIFORNIA — **SAN BERNARDINO**
Lawn Mower Supply Co. ..... 25608 E. Baseline 92410
SAN FRANCISCO
J.W. Jewett Co. ..... 981 Folsom St. 94107
SACRAMENTO
Luttig & Severson ..... 2030 28th St. 95818

COLORADO — **DENVER**
South Denver Lawn Equip. .... 527 West Evans 80223

CONNECTICUT — **SUFFIELD**
The Jones & Ramsey Co. ..... 850 Thompsonville Rd. 06078

FLORIDA — **JACKSONVILLE**
Radco Distributors ..... 2403 Market St. 32206
CORAL GABLES
Moz-All of Florida, Inc. ..... 365 Greco Ave. 33146

GEORGIA — **EAST POINT**
East Point Cycle & Key ..... 2834 Church St. 30344

ILLINOIS — **LYONS**
Keen Edge Co. ..... 8615 Ogden Ave. 60534

INDIANA — **ELKHART**
Parts & Sales Inc. ..... 2101 Industrial Pkwy. ..46514

IOWA — **DUBUQUE**
Power Lawn & Garden Equip. . 2551 J.F. Kennedy 52001

KANSAS — **WICHITA**
Hixon, Inc. ..... 3030 Mascot 67204

LOUISIANA — **NEW ORLEANS**
Suhren Engine Co. ..... 8330 Earhart Blvd. 70118

MARYLAND — **TAKOMA PARK**
Center Supply Co. .....6867 New Hampshire Ave. 20012

MASSACHUSETTS — **SPRINGFIELD**
Morton B. Collins Co. ..... 300 Birnie Ave. 01107

MICHIGAN — **MOUNT CLEMENS**
Power Equipment Dist. ..... 36463 South Gratiot... 48043
LANSING
Lorenz Service Co. ..... 2500 S. Pennsylvania .. 48900

MINNESOTA — **MINNETONKA**
Hance Distributing Inc. ..... 11212 Wayzata Blvd. ..55343

MISSISSIPPI — **BILOXI**
Biloxi Sales & Service, Inc. ....506 Caillavet St. 39533

MISSOURI — **KANSAS CITY**
Automotive Equip. Service ..... 3117 Holmes St. 64109
ST. LOUIS
Henzler, Inc. ..... 2015 Lemay Ferry Rd. 63125

NEW YORK — **CARTHAGE**
Gamble Dist., Inc. ..... West End Ave. 13619
SYRACUSE
Kimber's, Inc. ..... 115 N. Geddes St. 13204

BRIGGS & STRATTON, TECUMSEH AND PEERLESS PARTS AND SERVICE

Briggs & Stratton, Tecumseh and Peerless parts ar service should be handled by your nearest authoriz engine service firm. Check the yellow pages of your telephone directory under the listing *Engines — Gasoline*, Briggs & Stratton or Tecumseh Lauson —

NORTH CAROLINA — **GREENSBORO**
Dixie Sales Company ..... 327 Battleground Ave.. 27402
GOLDSBORO
Smith Hardware Co. ..... 515 N. George St. 27530

OHIO — **WADSWORTH**
National Central ..... 687 Seville Rd. 44281
CLEVELAND
Bleckrie, Inc. ..... 7900 Lorain Ave. 44102
CARROLL
Stebe's Mid-State Mower Supply Box 366 43112
WILLARD
Sunshine Wholesale Tire Outlet Route 224 44890
MANSFIELD
McClure Lawn & Garden Supply...1114 Lexington Ave. . 44903

OKLAHOMA — **MUSKOGEE**
Victory Motors, Inc. .....605 S. Cherokee 74401
ADA
Ada Auto Supply ..... 301 E. 12th St. 74820

OREGON — **PORTLAND**
Kenton Supply Co. .....8216 N. Denver Ave. . 97217

PENNSYLVANIA — **LANCASTER**
Raub Supply Co. ..... James & Mulberry Sts...17604
PITTSBURGH
Bluemont Co. ..... 11125 Frankstown Rd.. 15235

TENNESSEE — **KNOXVILLE**
Master Repair Service ..... 2423 Broadway, N.E. ..37917
MEMPHIS
Memphis Cycle & Supply Co. .... 421 Monroe Ave. 38103
American Sales & Service, Inc.. 1922 Lynnbrook 38116

TEXAS — **DALLAS**
Marr Brothers, Inc. ..... 423 E. Jefferson ..... 7520?
HOUSTON
Bullard Supply Co. ..... 2409 Commerce St. 77003
SAN ANTONIO
Catto & Putty, Inc. ..... P.O. Box 2408 78206
FORT WORTH
Woodson Sales Corp. ..... 1702 N. Sylvania ..... .76111

UTAH — **SALT LAKE CITY**
A-1 Engine & Mower Co. ..... 437 E. 9th St. 84111

VERMONT — **BURLINGTON**
Vermont Appliance Co. ..... 44 Lakeside Ave. 05401

VIRGINIA — **RICHMOND**
RBI Corp. ..... 963 Myers St. 23260

WASHINGTON — **SEATTLE**
Bailey's Rebuild, Inc. ..... 1325 E. Madison St. ...98102

WEST VIRGINIA — **CHARLESTON**
Young's, Inc. ..... 233 Virginia St., E. ...25301

WISCONSIN — **APPLETON**
Automotive Supply Co. ..... 123 S. Linwood Ave. ..54911

WARRANTY PARTS AND SERVICE POLICY

The purpose of warranty is to protect the customer from defects in workmanship and materials, defects which are NOT detected at the time of manufacture, It does not provide for the unlimited and unrestricted replacement of parts. Use and maintenance are the responsibility of the customer. The manufacturer cannot assume responsibility for conditions over which it has no control. Simply put, if it's the manufacturer's fault, it's the manufacturer's responsibility; if it's the customer's fault, it's the customer's responsibility.

CLAIMS AGAINST THE MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY INCLUDES

1. **Replacement of Missing Parts on new equipment.**
2. **Replacement of Defective Parts within the warranty period.**
3. **Repair of Defects within the warranty period.**

All claims MUST be substantiated with the following information:

1. **Model Number of unit involved.**
2. **Date unit was purchased or first put into service.**
3. **Date of failure.**
4. **Nature of failure.**